

SCI DETACHMENT
WEIMAR

17 June 1945

TO : CO, SCI, GERMANY

SUBJECT : Interrogation Reports on Frau Hildegard Burkhardt
BEETZ

1. The two enclosed interrogation reports on Frau BEETZ are sent to you with the following special note of caution. If Frau BEETZ is to be utilized by us in connection with Dr. HOTTL, ~~THESE REPORTS MUST BE USED ONLY WITH EXTREME CARE~~ in the doctor's interrogation.

2. Reasons for this are as follows: - According to her own story and according to Dr. HOTTL's story (as relayed from Third Army), Dr. HOTTL trusts Frau BEETZ implicitly. In these interrogations, however, Frau BEETZ relates that, unknown to the doctor, she double-crossed him in several instances -- in particular in urging Edda Mussolini to escape from Verona to Switzerland with Ciano's diaries. It is the opinion of the undersigned that Frau BEETZ can be of real value to us only if Dr. HOTTL's trust in her is not impaired.

3. Dr. HOTTL, according to Subject, does not know:
1) that the records Frau BEETZ sent to him were in large part dictated by CIANO and were known by her to be partly untrue; 2) that Frau BEETZ helped Edda Mussolini to escape to Switzerland on January 7th 1944; 3) that Frau BEETZ learned about the hiding places of CIANO's documents in Raniola from PUCCI, and had done nothing to discover the papers until her hand was forced by PANCINO's reports; 4) That Frau BEETZ knew of two other hiding places for documents and never disclosed them at all until she did so to the undersigned.

4. Dr. HOTTL's letter to Frau BEETZ, brought to Weimar by Lt. Stewart French, was so worded that Frau BEETZ understood immediately that Dr. Hottl had plans to work for us. The next day she warned the undersigned that Dr. Hottl was not a man to be completely trusted: that is if we saw to use him we should beware of his retaining connections with the underground: that she had on several occasions heard RESEA officials -- though probably not the doctor himself -- discussing post defeat plans such as suing the American service as a cover for their own operations.

5. In another, very general, conversation the next day Frau BEETZ suggested that if she went to work for HOTTL (as his letter to her almost openly suggested) she would be in an excellent position to watch him in our behalf. She is not particularly attached to the doctor; and, curiously, her suggestion that she watch him for us is exactly the mission that Capt. Schriever and the undersigned had thought best for her -- if she is utilized -- in a discussion the preceding night. Frau BEETZ, however, does not appear enthusiastic to enter this type of work again.

6. It is the opinion of the undersigned that Frau
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BEETZ is valuable material for such an operation, after a thorough interrogation and subject to the approval of yourself and of the case officer for the HOTTL operation. Meanwhile it is necessary, as this memorandum attempts to point out, not to make Dr. HOTTL suspicious of her by an injudicious use of the enclosed reports.

L.E. de Neufville
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[19 Jul 45]